

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

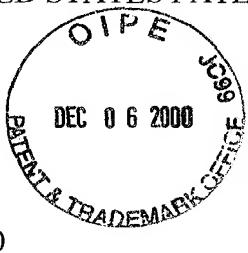
In re application of:

James L. Hartley

Appl. No. 09/666,890

Filed: September 20, 2000

For: **Nucleic Acid Marker Ladder for
Estimating Mass**



Art Unit: 1645

Examiner: To be Assigned

Atty. Docket: 0942.2570003/RWE/DRM

RECEIVED

DEC 11 2000

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Sir:

It is respectfully requested that this preliminary amendment be entered prior to examination of the application. It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.